

## Union Calendar No. 342

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7132

[Report No. 117-438]

To preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2022

Ms. KUSTER (for herself and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 26, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. CÁRDENAS

JULY 26, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 17, 2022]

# **A BILL**

To preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        *This Act may be cited as the “Safe Connections Act*  
5 *of 2022”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7        *Except as otherwise provided in this Act, terms used*  
8 *in this Act that are defined in section 345(a) of the Commu-*  
9 *nications Act of 1934, as added by section 4 of this Act,*  
10 *have the meanings given those terms in such section 345(a).*

11 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

12        *Congress finds the following:*

13            (1) *Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking,*  
14 *sexual assault, human trafficking, and related crimes*  
15 *are life-threatening issues and have lasting and harm-*  
16 *ful effects on individuals, families, and entire commu-*  
17 *nities.*

18            (2) *Survivors often lack meaningful support and*  
19 *options when establishing independence from an*  
20 *abuser, including barriers such as financial insecur-*  
21 *ity and limited access to reliable communications*  
22 *tools to maintain essential connections with family,*  
23 *social safety networks, employers, and support serv-*  
24 *ices.*

1           (3) *Perpetrators of violence and abuse described*  
2 *in paragraph (1) increasingly use technological and*  
3 *communications tools to exercise control over, mon-*  
4 *itor, and abuse their victims.*

5           (4) *Communications law can play a public in-*  
6 *terest role in the promotion of safety, life, and prop-*  
7 *erty with respect to the types of violence and abuse*  
8 *described in paragraph (1). For example, independent*  
9 *access to a wireless phone plan can assist survivors*  
10 *in establishing security and autonomy.*

11           (5) *Safeguards within communications services*  
12 *can serve a role in preventing abuse and narrowing*  
13 *the digital divide experienced by survivors of abuse.*

14 **SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS**  
15 **WITHIN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.**

16 *Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934*  
17 *(47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end*  
18 *the following:*

19 **“SEC. 345. PROTECTION OF SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIO-**  
20 **LENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED**  
21 **CRIMES.**

22 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

23 *“(1) ABUSER.—The term ‘abuser’ means an in-*  
24 *dividual who has committed or allegedly committed a*  
25 *covered act against—*

1           “(A) *an individual who seeks relief under*  
2           *subsection (b); or*

3           “(B) *an individual in the care of an indi-*  
4           *vidual who seeks relief under subsection (b).*

5           “(2) *COVERED ACT.—*

6           “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered act’*  
7           *means conduct that constitutes—*

8                   “(i) *a crime described in section*  
9                   *40002(a) of the Violence Against Women*  
10                   *Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)), including*  
11                   *domestic violence, dating violence, sexual*  
12                   *assault, stalking, and sex trafficking;*

13                   “(ii) *an act or practice described in*  
14                   *paragraph (11) or (12) of section 103 of the*  
15                   *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000*  
16                   *(22 U.S.C. 7102) (relating to severe forms of*  
17                   *trafficking in persons and sex trafficking,*  
18                   *respectively); or*

19                   “(iii) *an act under State law, Tribal*  
20                   *law, or the Uniform Code of Military Jus-*  
21                   *tice that is similar to an offense described*  
22                   *in clause (i) or (ii).*

23           “(B) *CONVICTION NOT REQUIRED.—Nothing*  
24           *in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to re-*  
25           *quire a criminal conviction or any other deter-*

1            *mination of a court in order for conduct to con-*  
2            *stitute a covered act.*

3            “(3) *COVERED PROVIDER.*—*The term ‘covered*  
4            *provider’ means a provider of a private mobile service*  
5            *or commercial mobile service, as those terms are de-*  
6            *finied in section 332(d).*

7            “(4) *PRIMARY ACCOUNT HOLDER.*—*The term*  
8            *‘primary account holder’ means an individual who is*  
9            *a party to a mobile service contract with a covered*  
10           *provider.*

11           “(5) *SHARED MOBILE SERVICE CONTRACT.*—*The*  
12           *term ‘shared mobile service contract’—*

13                      *“(A) means a mobile service contract for an*  
14                      *account that includes not less than 2 consumers;*  
15                      *and*

16                      *“(B) does not include enterprise services of-*  
17                      *fered by a covered provider.*

18           “(6) *SURVIVOR.*—*The term ‘survivor’ means an*  
19           *individual who is not less than 18 years old and—*

20                      *“(A) against whom a covered act has been*  
21                      *committed or allegedly committed; or*

22                      *“(B) who cares for another individual*  
23                      *against whom a covered act has been committed*  
24                      *or allegedly committed (provided that the indi-*

1           *vidual providing care did not commit or alleg-*  
2           *edly commit the covered act).*

3           “(b) *SEPARATION OF LINES FROM SHARED MOBILE*  
4 *SERVICE CONTRACT.—*

5           “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 business*  
6 *days after receiving a completed line separation re-*  
7 *quest from a survivor pursuant to subsection (c), a*  
8 *covered provider shall, as applicable, with respect to*  
9 *a shared mobile service contract under which the sur-*  
10 *ivor and the abuser each use a line—*

11           “(A) *separate the line of the survivor, and*  
12 *the line of any individual in the care of the sur-*  
13 *ivor, from the shared mobile service contract; or*

14           “(B) *separate the line of the abuser from the*  
15 *shared mobile service contract.*

16           “(2) *LIMITATIONS ON PENALTIES, FEES, AND*  
17 *OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Except as provided in*  
18 *paragraphs (5) through (7), a covered provider may*  
19 *not make separation of a line from a shared mobile*  
20 *service contract under paragraph (1) contingent on*  
21 *any requirement other than the requirements under*  
22 *subsection (c), including—*

23           “(A) *payment of a fee, penalty, or other*  
24 *charge;*

1           “(B) maintaining contractual or billing re-  
2           sponsibility of a separated line with the pro-  
3           vider;

4           “(C) approval of separation by the primary  
5           account holder, if the primary account holder is  
6           not the survivor;

7           “(D) a prohibition or limitation, including  
8           one described in subparagraph (A), on number  
9           portability, provided such portability is tech-  
10          nically feasible, or a request to change phone  
11          numbers;

12          “(E) a prohibition or limitation on the sep-  
13          aration of lines as a result of arrears accrued by  
14          the account;

15          “(F) an increase in the rate charged for the  
16          mobile service plan of the primary account hold-  
17          er with respect to service on any remaining line  
18          or lines; or

19          “(G) any other limitation or requirement  
20          not listed under subsection (c).

21          “(3) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in  
22          paragraph (2) shall be construed to require a covered  
23          provider to provide a rate plan for the primary ac-  
24          count holder that is not otherwise commercially avail-  
25          able.

1           “(4) *REMOTE OPTION.*—A covered provider shall  
2 offer a survivor the ability to submit a line separa-  
3 tion request under subsection (c) through secure re-  
4 mote means that are easily navigable, provided that  
5 remote options are commercially available and tech-  
6 nically feasible.

7           “(5) *RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSFERRED TELE-*  
8 *PHONE NUMBERS.*—Notwithstanding paragraph (2),  
9 beginning on the date on which a covered provider  
10 transfers billing responsibilities for and use of a tele-  
11 phone number or numbers to a survivor under para-  
12 graph (1)(A) in response to a line separation request  
13 submitted by the survivor under subsection (c), unless  
14 ordered otherwise by a court, the survivor shall as-  
15 sume financial responsibility, including for monthly  
16 service costs, for the transferred telephone number or  
17 numbers.

18           “(6) *RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSFERRED TELE-*  
19 *PHONE NUMBERS FROM A SURVIVOR’S ACCOUNT.*—  
20 Notwithstanding paragraph (2), upon the transfer of  
21 a telephone number under paragraph (1)(B) in re-  
22 sponse to a line separation request submitted by a  
23 survivor under subsection (c), the survivor shall have  
24 no further financial responsibilities to the transfer-  
25 ring covered provider for the services provided by the

1       *transferring covered provider for the telephone num-*  
2       *ber or for any mobile device associated with the tele-*  
3       *phone number.*

4               “(7) *RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOBILE DEVICE.*—  
5       *Notwithstanding paragraph (2), beginning on the*  
6       *date on which a covered provider transfers billing re-*  
7        *sponsibilities for and rights to a telephone number or*  
8        *numbers to a survivor under paragraph (1)(A) in re-*  
9        *sponse to a line separation request submitted by the*  
10        *survivor under subsection (c), unless otherwise ordered*  
11        *by a court, the survivor shall not assume financial re-*  
12        *sponsibility for any mobile device associated with the*  
13        *separated line, unless the survivor purchased the mo-*  
14        *bile device, or affirmatively elects to maintain posses-*  
15        *sion of the mobile device.*

16               “(8) *NOTICE TO SURVIVOR.*—*If a covered pro-*  
17        *vider separates a line from a shared mobile service*  
18        *contract under paragraph (1) and the primary ac-*  
19        *count holder is not the survivor, the covered provider*  
20        *shall notify the survivor of the date on which the cov-*  
21        *ered provider intends to give any formal notice to the*  
22        *primary account holder.*

23               “(c) *LINE SEPARATION REQUEST.*—

24               “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In the case of a survivor*  
25        *seeking to separate a line from a shared mobile serv-*

1       *ice contract, the survivor shall submit to the covered*  
2       *provider a line separation request that—*

3               “(A) *verifies that an individual who uses a*  
4       *line under the shared mobile service contract has*  
5       *committed or allegedly committed a covered act*  
6       *against the survivor or an individual in the sur-*  
7       *vivor’s care, by providing—*

8               “(i) *a copy of a signed affidavit from*  
9       *a licensed medical or mental health care*  
10       *provider, licensed military medical or men-*  
11       *tal health care provider, licensed social*  
12       *worker, victim services provider, or licensed*  
13       *military victim services provider, or an em-*  
14       *ployee of a court, acting within the scope of*  
15       *that person’s employment; or*

16               “(ii) *a copy of a police report, state-*  
17       *ments provided by police, including mili-*  
18       *tary police, to magistrates or judges, charg-*  
19       *ing documents, protective or restraining or-*  
20       *ders, military protective orders, or any*  
21       *other official record that documents the cov-*  
22       *ered act;*

23               “(B) *in the case of relief sought under sub-*  
24       *section (b)(1)(A), with respect to—*

1           “(i) a line used by the survivor that  
2           the survivor seeks to have separated, states  
3           that the survivor is the user of that specific  
4           line; and

5           “(ii) a line used by an individual in  
6           the care of the survivor that the survivor  
7           seeks to have separated, includes an affi-  
8           davit setting forth that the individual—

9                       “(I) is in the care of the survivor;  
10                      and

11                     “(II) is the user of that specific  
12                     line; and

13           “(C) requests relief under subparagraph (A)  
14           or (B) of subsection (b)(1) and identifies each  
15           line that should be separated.

16           “(2) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COVERED PRO-  
17           VIDERS.—

18                     “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered provider  
19           shall notify a survivor seeking relief under sub-  
20           section (b) in clear and accessible language that  
21           the covered provider may contact the survivor, or  
22           designated representative of the survivor, to con-  
23           firm the line separation, or if the covered pro-  
24           vider is unable to complete the line separation

1           *for any reason, pursuant to subparagraphs (B)*  
2           *and (C).*

3           “(B) *REMOTE MEANS.*—*A covered provider*  
4           *shall notify a survivor under subparagraph (A)*  
5           *through remote means, provided that remote*  
6           *means are commercially available and tech-*  
7           *nically feasible.*

8           “(C) *ELECTION OF MANNER OF CONTACT.*—  
9           *When completing a line separation request sub-*  
10          *mitted by a survivor through remote means*  
11          *under paragraph (1), a covered provider shall*  
12          *allow the survivor to elect in the manner in*  
13          *which the covered provider may—*

14                 “(i) *contact the survivor, or designated*  
15                 *representative of the survivor, in response to*  
16                 *the request, if necessary; or*

17                 “(ii) *notify the survivor, or designated*  
18                 *representative of the survivor, of the inabil-*  
19                 *ity of the covered provider to complete the*  
20                 *line separation.*

21           “(3) *ENHANCED PROTECTIONS UNDER STATE*  
22          *LAW.*—*This subsection shall not affect any law or reg-*  
23          *ulation of a State providing communications protec-*  
24          *tions for survivors (or any similar category of indi-*  
25          *viduals) that has less stringent requirements for pro-*

1 *viding evidence of a covered act (or any similar cat-*  
2 *egory of conduct) than this subsection.*

3 *“(d) CONFIDENTIAL AND SECURE TREATMENT OF*  
4 *PERSONAL INFORMATION.—*

5 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section*  
6 *222(c)(2), a covered provider and any officer, direc-*  
7 *tor, employee, vendor, or agent thereof shall treat any*  
8 *information submitted by a survivor under subsection*  
9 *(c) as confidential and securely dispose of the infor-*  
10 *mation not later than 90 days after receiving the in-*  
11 *formation.*

12 *“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in*  
13 *paragraph (1) shall be construed to prohibit a covered*  
14 *provider from maintaining, for longer than the period*  
15 *specified in that paragraph, a record that verifies*  
16 *that a survivor fulfilled the conditions of a line sepa-*  
17 *ration request under subsection (c).*

18 *“(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO CON-*  
19 *SUMERS.—A covered provider shall make information about*  
20 *the options and process described in subsections (b) and (c)*  
21 *readily available to consumers—*

22 *“(1) on the website and the mobile application of*  
23 *the provider;*

24 *“(2) in physical stores; and*

1           “(3) *in other forms of public-facing consumer*  
2 *communication.*

3           “(f) *TECHNICAL INFEASIBILITY.—*

4           “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The requirement to effectuate*  
5 *a line separation request pursuant to subsection*  
6 *(b)(1) shall not apply to a covered provider if the cov-*  
7 *ered provider cannot operationally or technically ef-*  
8 *fectuate the request.*

9           “(2) *NOTIFICATION.—If a covered provider can-*  
10 *not operationally or technically effectuate a line sepa-*  
11 *ration request as described in paragraph (1), the cov-*  
12 *ered provider shall—*

13           “(A) *notify the survivor who submitted the*  
14 *request of that infeasibility—*

15           “(i) *at the time of the request; or*

16           “(ii) *in the case of a survivor who has*  
17 *submitted the request using remote means,*  
18 *not later than 2 business days after receiv-*  
19 *ing the request; and*

20           “(B) *provide the survivor with information*  
21 *about other alternatives to submitting a line sep-*  
22 *aration request, including starting a new line of*  
23 *service.*

24           “(g) *LIABILITY PROTECTION.—*

1           “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—A covered provider and any  
2           officer, director, employee, vendor, or agent thereof  
3           shall not be subject to liability for any claims deriv-  
4           ing from an action taken or omission made with re-  
5           spect to compliance with this section and the rules  
6           adopted to implement this section.

7           “(2) *COMMISSION AUTHORITY.*—Nothing in this  
8           subsection shall limit the authority of the Commission  
9           to enforce this section or any rules or regulations pro-  
10          mulgated by the Commission pursuant to this sec-  
11          tion.”.

12 **SEC. 5. RULEMAKING ON PROTECTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF**  
13                                   **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

14          (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section—

15                  (1) the term “Affordable Connectivity Program”  
16                  means the program established under section 904(b) of  
17                  division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,  
18                  2021 (Public Law 116–260), as amended by section  
19                  60502 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
20                  (Public Law 117–58), or any successor program;

21                  (2) the term “appropriate congressional commit-  
22                  tees” means the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
23                  and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee  
24                  on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-  
25                  tives;

1           (3) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
2           Communications Commission;

3           (4) the term “covered hotline” means a hotline  
4           related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual  
5           assault, stalking, sex trafficking, severe forms of traf-  
6           ficking in persons, or any other similar act;

7           (5) the term “designated program” means the  
8           program designated by the Commission under sub-  
9           section (b)(2)(A)(i) to provide emergency communica-  
10          tions support to survivors;

11          (6) the term “Lifeline program” means the pro-  
12          gram set forth in subpart E of part 54 of title 47,  
13          Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-  
14          tion);

15          (7) the term “text message” has the meaning  
16          given the term in section 227(e)(8) of the Commu-  
17          nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)); and

18          (8) the term “voice service” has the meaning  
19          given such term in section 4(a) of the Pallone-Thune  
20          Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and  
21          Deterrence Act (47 U.S.C. 227b(a)).

22          (b) RULEMAKINGS.—

23                  (1) LINE SEPARATIONS.—

24                          (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18  
25                  months after the date of enactment of this Act,

1           *the Commission shall adopt rules to implement*  
2           *section 345 of the Communications Act of 1934,*  
3           *as added by section 4 of this Act.*

4           *(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In adopting rules*  
5           *under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall*  
6           *consider—*

7                     *(i) privacy protections;*

8                     *(ii) account security and fraud detec-*  
9                     *tion;*

10                    *(iii) account billing procedures;*

11                    *(iv) procedures for notification of sur-*  
12                    *vivors about line separation processes;*

13                    *(v) notice to primary account holders;*

14                    *(vi) situations in which a covered pro-*  
15                    *vider cannot operationally or technically*  
16                    *separate a telephone number or numbers*  
17                    *from a shared mobile service contract such*  
18                    *that the provider cannot effectuate a line*  
19                    *separation request;*

20                    *(vii) the requirements for remote sub-*  
21                    *mission of a line separation request, includ-*  
22                    *ing how that option facilitates submission*  
23                    *of verification information and meets the*  
24                    *other requirements of section 345 of the*

1            *Communications Act of 1934, as added by*  
2            *section 4 of this Act;*

3            *(viii) feasibility of remote options for*  
4            *small covered providers;*

5            *(ix) implementation timelines, includ-*  
6            *ing those for small covered providers;*

7            *(x) financial responsibility for trans-*  
8            *ferred telephone numbers;*

9            *(xi) whether and how the survivor can*  
10           *affirmatively elect to take financial respon-*  
11           *sibility for the mobile device associated with*  
12           *the separated line;*

13           *(xii) compliance with subpart U of*  
14           *part 64 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-*  
15           *tions, or any successor regulations (relating*  
16           *to customer proprietary network informa-*  
17           *tion) or any other legal or law enforcement*  
18           *requirements; and*

19           *(xiii) ensuring covered providers have*  
20           *the necessary account information to com-*  
21           *ply with the rules and with section 345 of*  
22           *the Communications Act of 1934, as added*  
23           *by section 4 of this Act.*

24           (2) *EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR*  
25           *SURVIVORS.—*

1           (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 18*  
2 *months after the date of enactment of this Act,*  
3 *or as part of a general rulemaking proceeding*  
4 *relating to the Lifeline program or the Affordable*  
5 *Connectivity Program, whichever occurs earlier,*  
6 *the Commission shall adopt rules that—*

7           (i) *designate a single program, which*  
8 *shall be either the Lifeline program or the*  
9 *Affordable Connectivity Program, to provide*  
10 *emergency communications support to sur-*  
11 *vivors in accordance with this paragraph;*  
12 *and*

13           (ii) *allow a survivor who is suffering*  
14 *from financial hardship and meets the re-*  
15 *quirements under section 345(c)(1) of the*  
16 *Communications Act of 1934, as added by*  
17 *section 4 of this Act, without regard to*  
18 *whether the survivor meets the otherwise ap-*  
19 *plicable eligibility requirements of the des-*  
20 *ignated program, to—*

21           (I) *enroll in the designated pro-*  
22 *gram as quickly as is feasible; and*

23           (II) *participate in the designated*  
24 *program based on such qualifications*  
25 *for not more than 6 months.*

1           (B) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*In adopting rules*  
2           *under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall*  
3           *consider—*

4                   (i) *how survivors who are eligible for*  
5                   *relief and elected to separate a line under*  
6                   *section 345(c)(1) of the Communications*  
7                   *Act of 1934, as added by section 4 of this*  
8                   *Act, but whose lines could not be separated*  
9                   *due to operational or technical infeasibility,*  
10                   *can participate in the designated program;*  
11                   *and*

12                   (ii) *confidentiality in the transfer and*  
13                   *retention of any necessary documentation*  
14                   *regarding the eligibility of a survivor to en-*  
15                   *roll in the designated program.*

16           (C) *EVALUATION.*—*Not later than 2 years*  
17           *after completing the rulemaking under subpara-*  
18           *graph (A), the Commission shall—*

19                   (i) *evaluate the effectiveness of the*  
20                   *Commission’s provision of support to sur-*  
21                   *vivors through the designated program;*

22                   (ii) *assess the detection and elimi-*  
23                   *nation of fraud, waste, and abuse with re-*  
24                   *spect to the support described in clause (i);*  
25                   *and*

1                   (iii) submit to the appropriate congres-  
2                   sional committees a report that includes the  
3                   evaluation and assessment described in  
4                   clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

5                   (D) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in  
6                   this paragraph shall be construed to limit the  
7                   ability of a survivor who meets the requirements  
8                   under section 345(c)(1) of the Communications  
9                   Act of 1934, as added by section 4 of this Act,  
10                  to participate in the designated program indefi-  
11                  nitely if the survivor otherwise qualifies for the  
12                  designated program under the rules of the des-  
13                  ignated program.

14                  (E) *NOTIFICATION.*—A covered provider  
15                  that receives a line separation request pursuant  
16                  to section 345 of the Communications Act of  
17                  1934, as added by section 4 of this Act, shall in-  
18                  form the survivor who submitted the request of—

19                         (i) the existence of the designated pro-  
20                         gram;

21                         (ii) who qualifies to participate in the  
22                         designated program under the rules adopted  
23                         under subparagraph (A) that are specially  
24                         applicable to survivors; and

1                   (iii) how to participate in the des-  
2                   ignated program under the rules described  
3                   in clause (ii).

4           (3) *HOTLINE CALLS.*—

5                   (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days  
6                   after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-  
7                   mission shall commence a rulemaking proceeding  
8                   to consider whether to, and how the Commission  
9                   should—

10                   (i) establish, and update on a monthly  
11                   basis, a central database of covered hotlines  
12                   to be used by a covered provider or a  
13                   wireline provider of voice service; and

14                   (ii) require a covered provider or a  
15                   wireline provider of voice service to omit  
16                   from consumer-facing logs of calls or text  
17                   messages any records of calls or text mes-  
18                   sages to covered hotlines in the central data-  
19                   base described in clause (i), while maintain-  
20                   ing internal records of those calls and mes-  
21                   sages.

22                   (B) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—The rulemaking  
23                   conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include  
24                   consideration of—

1           (i) the ability of law enforcement agen-  
2           cies or survivors to access a log of calls or  
3           text messages in a criminal investigation or  
4           civil proceeding;

5           (ii) the ability of a covered provider or  
6           a wireline provider of voice service to—

7                   (I) identify logs that are con-  
8                   sumer-facing; and

9                   (II) omit certain consumer-facing  
10                  logs, while maintaining internal  
11                  records of such calls and text messages;  
12                  and

13           (iii) any other factors associated with  
14           the implementation of clauses (i) and (ii) to  
15           protect survivors, including factors that  
16           may impact smaller providers.

17           (C) NO EFFECT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

18           Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed  
19           to—

20                   (i) limit or otherwise affect the ability  
21                   of a law enforcement agency to access a log  
22                   of calls or text messages in a criminal in-  
23                   vestigation; or

24                   (ii) alter or otherwise expand provider  
25                   requirements under the Communications

1           *Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (Public*  
2           *Law 103-414; 108 Stat. 4279) or the*  
3           *amendments made by that Act.*

4           (D) *COMPLIANCE.—If the Commission es-*  
5           *tablishes a central database through the rule-*  
6           *making under subparagraph (A) and a covered*  
7           *provider updates its own databases to match the*  
8           *central database not less frequently than once*  
9           *every 30 days, no cause of action shall lie or be*  
10          *maintained in any court against the covered*  
11          *provider or its officers, employees, or agents for*  
12          *claims deriving from omission from consumer-*  
13          *facing logs of calls or text messages of any*  
14          *records of calls or text messages to covered hot-*  
15          *lines in the central database.*

16 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17          *The requirements under section 345 of the Commu-*  
18          *nications Act of 1934, as added by section 4 of this Act,*  
19          *shall take effect 60 days after the date on which the Federal*  
20          *Communications Commission adopts the rules imple-*  
21          *menting that section pursuant to section 5(b)(1) of this Act.*

22 **SEC. 7. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

23          *Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this*  
24          *Act shall be construed to abrogate, limit, or otherwise affect*  
25          *the provisions set forth in the Communications Assistance*

1 *for Law Enforcement Act (Public Law 103–414; 108 Stat.*  
2 *4279) and the amendments made by that Act, any authority*  
3 *granted to the Federal Communications Commission pursu-*  
4 *ant to that Act or the amendments made by that Act, or*  
5 *any regulations promulgated by the Federal Communica-*  
6 *tions Commission pursuant to that Act or the amendments*  
7 *made by that Act.*



Union Calendar No. 342

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 7132**

[Report No. 117-438]

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## **A BILL**

To preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, and for other purposes.

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JULY 26, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed